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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:RWSULLIVAN:BDS
APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL, JR.
CU/EA - MR. HILL (SUBS)
EA/PRCM - MR. ARMSTRONG
S/S-O: R.KUCHEL
---------- 061858
P R 272318Z JUN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY
INFO USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

S E C R E T STATE 139668

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
SUBJECT: US BICENTENNIAL

REF: STATE 131688 (EXDIS)

1. ROC EMBASSY DCM CHEN CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUMMEL JUNE 21 TO DISCUSS OUR DECISION ON BICENTENNIAL (REFTEL). CHEN NOTED THAT ON JULY 4, 1973 GROC RECEIVED INVITATION FROM EMBASSY TO PARTICIPATE IN BICENTENNIAL. SINCE THAT TIME EXECUTIVE YUAN HAD SET UP COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO CHOW SHU-KAI TO PREPARE PLANS FOR PARTICIPATION. ON 19 JUNE, HOWEVER, WE INFORMED ROC EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT NEITHER ROC NOR PRC WOULD BE INVITED. NOTING THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM TAIPEI AND WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE EMBASSY, CHEN COMMENTED THAT THE USG HAD REPEATEDLY GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT IT WISHED TO MAINTAIN "DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL" RELATIONS WITH THE ROC. HE THEREFORE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION ON THIS MATTER. HE ADDED
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THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY EMBARRASSING FOR THE ROC TO

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EXPLAIN ITS INABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BICENTENNIAL
IN VIEW OF THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH EXIST BETWEEN
OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

2. HUMMEL REPLIED THAT WE REALIZE THERE ARE AWKWARD

ASPECTS OF THIS DECISION FOR THE ROC, BUT WE HAVE
CONCLUDED IT WOULD BE MORE AWKWARD TO FOLLOW ANY OTHER
COURSE. WE HOPE THE GROC WILL UNDERSTAND THIS EVEN
IF IT CANNOT FULLY ACCEPT THE REASONING BEHIND OUR
DECISION.

3. ON JUNE 26 POLITICAL COUNSELOR (HENRY) CHEN CALLED
ON EA/ROC DIRECTOR SULLIVAN ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOFA
TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF OUR DECISION. READING FROM
HIS INSTRUCTIONS, CHEN ASKED (A) WHAT ARE THE CONTENTS
AND SCOPE OF THIS DECISION? (B) DOES THE PHRASE
"US GOVERNMENT AND QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL" ORGANIZATION?
(PARA 1 REFTEL) INCLUDE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS?
(C) CAN THE USG PROVIDE THE GROC WITH A LIST OF
EVENTS TO WHICH IT WILL NOT BE INVITED? (D) WOULD WE
CONFIRM THAT ROC EMBASSY WOULD BE INCLUDED IN
BICENTENNIAL FUNCTIONS TO WHICH THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS
WOULD BE INVITED?

4. SULLIVAN REITERATED POINTS REFTEL THAT GOVERNMENTS
OF NEITHER THE PRC NOR THE ROC WOULD RECEIVE INVITA-
TIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY BICENTENNIAL EVENTS HOSTED
BY US GOVERNMENT OR QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL BICENTENNIAL
ORGANIZATIONS. THE ONLY EXCEPTION WAS THAT ROC EMB-
ASSY WOULD BE INCLUDED IN FUNCTIONS TO WHICH THE DIPLO-
MATIC CORPS WOULD BE INVITED. AS NOTED IN JUNE 19
MEETING, THIS DECISION DOES NOT APPLY TO PRIVATELY
SPONSORED EVENTS. IT ALSO DOES NOT APPLY TO EVENTS
SPONSORED BY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WHICH USG DOES
NOT CONTROL. (FYI - IF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ASK
OUR ADVICE WE WILL EXPLAIN THE PROBLEM AND HOW WE PLAN
TO HANDLE IT AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL. END FYI).
SULLIVAN POINTED OUT AGAIN, HOWEVER, THAT WE HOPE TE
ROC, IN CONSIDERING PARTICIPATION IN PRIVATELY SPONSORED
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EVENTS OR THOSE HOSTED BY STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS,
WILL KEEP IN MIND OUR DESIRE TO AVOID INJECTING CHINA
ISSUE INTO BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. SULLIVAN ALSO
PROMISED TO PROVIDE LIST OF PLANNED BICENTENNIAL
EVENTS WHEN AVAILABLE.

5. CHEN ALSO NOTED THAT EMBASSY HAD NOT RAISED THIS
MATTER IN TAIPEI AND EXPRESSED HOPE WE WOULD ASK YOU

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TO DO SO. SULLIVAN COMMENTED THAT WE HAD NOT INSTRUCTED EMBASSY TO MAKE PARALLEL APPROACH IN TAIPEI AND THAT EMBASSY PROBABLY ASSUMED IT WAS PREFERABLE TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE IN WASHINGTON WHERE ANSWERS TO GROC QUESTIONS COULD BE QUICKLY OBTAINED.

6. IN VIEW ROC EMBASSY'S CONCERN OVER YOUR SILENCE ON THIS MATTER AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT GROC MAY BE GETTING GARBLED VERSION FROM ITS EMBASSY'S REPORTING, REQUEST YOU SEEK APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN THIS DECISION ALONG LINES THIS MESSAGE AND REFTEL.

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